



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

and the

Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce

Whereas, DART is an active supporter, participant and member of the Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce (hereafter referred to as "the Chamber") who desires to participate and continue to support the Chamber in its efforts to secure employment, economic opportunities and development for members of the DART service area; and

Whereas, the mission of DART is to build, establish and operate a safe, efficient transportation system that, within the DART service area, provides mobility, improves the quality of life and stimulates economic development, opportunity and development within the community; and intends to continue to serve as one of the engines for economic opportunity and development within the community; and

Whereas, the mission of DART through the Department of Diversity and Economic Opportunity (DEO), is to effectively implement and monitor applicable laws, policies and programs in accordance with federal and state guidelines, in a manner which recognizes and utilizes the full spectrum of diverse knowledge, skills and abilities of all employees, contractors, customers and the community in advancing the regional transportation goals of DART, providing economic opportunities to the community; and

Whereas, DART is broadening its outreach efforts throughout the Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, so that more Asian-American vendors can be added to the certified vendor database and thereby increase the number of Asian-American vendors to compete for DART's contracts on an equitable basis; and

Whereas, our current and future goals include:

- Developing a comprehensive Outreach Program for Disadvantaged, Minority and Women Business Enterprises (DMWBEs) and their communities;
- Ensuring and increasing opportunities for DMWBEs to compete and win prime and subcontracts in proportion to the representation levels on North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency's vendor list; and
- Generating and developing new and existing vendors through effective outreach and training programs. Furthermore, fostering equal opportunity and level playing field to enable Disadvantaged Minority Woman Owned Business Enterprise vendors to compete as prime contractors; and

Whereas, the mission of the Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce is to develop, and protect Asian businesses in the greater Dallas area and to support the advancement, education and economic growth of the Asian community. The Chamber shall serve as a business resource, a forum and advocate for Asian business issues and a united voice for the Asian business community, and;

Whereas, the goals for the Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce are to:

- Develop an introductory advertising program on the fourteen (14) Asian communities in the DART service area via the Asian Media contacts and KNON radio programs.
- Conduct procurement programs through procurement sessions, procurement forums, procurement mentoring and procurement partnerships.
- Provide access to capital programs by means of the Little Asia Business Incubation Center.
- Provide assistance and education on bonding and insurance programs.
- Conduct training and development for Asian owned businesses through the Small Business Seminar program presented at the Asia Trade District offices.

Therefore, DART and the Chamber hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase participation of Asian American-owned businesses in DART's employment, procurement, outreach, subcontracting opportunities and business development programs.

Terms of Understanding

DART and the Chamber will establish a working committee that will be created and convened within 30 days of the execution of this MOU. The committee will be charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing the activities and initiatives which will accomplish the goals and focus of said MOU. This committee will include, but not be limited to, DART's President/Executive Director, Vice President of Diversity and Economic Opportunity and other DART staff members as determined by DART and will include, but will not be limited to the Chamber's Chairman and other invited guests as determined by the Committee. It will be the responsibility of this committee to ensure the goals and objectives are achieved. This committee will provide monthly status reports to both DART and the Chamber Board Members on the progress and results of these activities. Furthermore:

- I. DART will identify appropriate staff to liaison and increase communications regarding upcoming procurement opportunities with DMWBEs. DART will provide monthly reports on procurement activities to the working committee.

DART and the Chamber will jointly develop a program for the membership of the Chamber to access capital by way of bonding and insurance assistance programs.

DART and the Chamber will jointly conduct seminars regarding corporate credit card usage.

DART and the Chamber will foster and encourage contractual relationships between major contractors and Asian-American contractors, vendors, and service providers through educational, training, subcontracting, and mentoring programs.

DART and the Chamber will jointly or separately develop initiatives to further the impact and effectiveness of this relationship.

DART will reimburse the cost of activities hosted by the Chamber, pre-approved by DART, facilitating its outreach efforts.

- II. DART and the Chamber will jointly conduct consumer education programs to better inform the Asian-American community about available transportation alternatives throughout the DART service area and DART's future projects.
- III. DART and the Chamber will conduct regularly scheduled information sessions with the Asian-American media to inform them of such issues as: the progress of the initiatives highlighted in this agreement, explanation/rationale for any raises in fares, and DART's future expansion plans.

- IV. To further develop closer communication ties between the two parties, DART will host quarterly "Roundtable" discussions to which the DART Board of Directors, the Board and leadership of the Chamber and other invited guests will be regular participants.
- V. DART will utilize electronic means to transmit all job postings, including executive and exempt positions, to the Chamber on a weekly basis.
- VI. DART will encourage compliance by the governing bodies of its member cities with the provision of section 452.575, Transportation Code, which states: "the governing body of a municipality that makes more than one appointment shall, to the greatest extent practicable, select persons who accurately reflect the racial and ethnic composition of the municipality."

Implementation of Understanding

DART will continue to be an active member of the Chamber, participate in, and support future program activities of the Chamber.

DART and the Chamber will establish a working committee, responsible for the development of the initiatives and activities agreed upon by the parties and will convene within thirty (30) days of execution of this MOU.

The Committee will be comprised of DART and the Chamber representatives and/or invited participants.

It will be the further responsibility of this committee to ensure the goals and objectives are achieved.

This committee will provide monthly status reports to both DART and the Chamber Board members on the progress and results of these initiatives.

Understanding

This MOU is entered into this 13th day of February, 2001 by and between DART and the Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce. This MOU will remain in effect through calendar year 2002 and may be extended for 5 year(s) by written agreement of the parties.

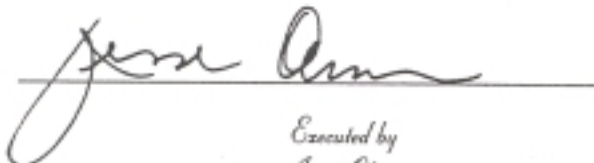
The parties mutually understand the need for coordination and prior approval of activities and initiatives which may involve DART funds.

The parties mutually agree to consult regarding any amendments or issues to be addressed. This MOU may be modified by written mutual consent.

The executors of this MOU further represent that they have the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their respective organizations.

For DART:

For GDAACC



Executed by
Jesse Oliver
Chairman of the DART Board of Directors



Executed by
Dilip Patel
Chairman of the
Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce

February 28, 2001
Date

2/28/01
Date